

MAPPING EXCELLENCE Office of the State Engineer

The **New Mexico Office of the State Engineer** (OSE) won a prestigious award at the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International Conference held in San Diego, California on July 6-11. The first place award for the "Best Instructional Presentation" featured a map poster illustrating the technical procedures required to plan and complete a Hydrographic Survey. The lead authors, *Christina Noftsker* and *Elizabeth Ayarbe*, collaborated with *Mike Recker* and *Jaime Bustos* to produce a winner that competed with approximately 1,500 entries. The conference was attended by over 11,000 mapping professionals from over 135 countries who use geographic information technologies.

The winners are part of the Lower Pecos Team from the Hydrographic Survey Bureau within the Legal Services Division of OSE. They are responsible for assessing, inventorying, mapping, and field checking sources of water, areas of water use, and water conveyance features. These tasks support the adjudication or legal identification of a water right. Through the use of sophisticated technology the Hydrographic Survey staff merge high quality aerial imagery and global positioning system satellite field mapping with historical water right lineage data to determine the most accurate characteristics of an individual's water right.

This is the second year the Office of the State Engineer has won an award for mapping excellence. New Mexico's investment into actively managing our water resources has produced an integrated system for mapping and analyzing water right information for the State. The agency is shouldered with a large mission. However, the accomplishments as reflected by these awards showcase the progress this agency has realized in a short time frame.



The winning team of Jaime Bustos, Christina Noftsker, Liz Ayarbe, and Mike Recker (left to right) present the award to John D'Antonio, New Mexico State Engineer (center).

